Application No. 10/660,276
Amendment Dated February 22, 2006

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1: (previously presented): A method of verifying that medication to be administered is correct, comprising:

scanning a bar code on an identification bracelet worn by a patient to ascertain patient information;

scanning a bar code pertaining to medication to be administered to the patient to ascertain medication information;

verifying whether the patient information and the medication information is correct and authorized based on both of the scannings by accessing a network; and

activating an alarm if the verifying indicates that the medication is improper for administration to the patient.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): A method of claim 1, further comprising notifying that the medication may be given to the patient provided the verifying finds that the patient information and the medication information is correct; and transmitting a verification signal upon witnessing that the patient was administered the medication subsequent to the notifying.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A method of claim 1, further comprising scanning a nurse's badge, and using the network to verify that nurse's information scanned from the nurse's badge is correct and authorized.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A method of claim 1, further comprising updating billing to account for a cost of the scanned medication.

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Claim 6 (previously presented):   A method of claim 1, wherein the verifying includes interrogating a computer with scheduling to determine whether the medication is being administered too early or too late.

Claim 7 (previously presented):   A method of claim 1, wherein the medication is contained in pills that are sealed individually within single-pill containers.

Claim 8 (previously presented):   A method of administering medication, comprising:

keeping track of each individual one of a plurality of pills by machine reading a machine readable code assigned to each of the individual pills;

dispensing an individual one of the pills based on the machine reading; and

adjusting inventory requirements for stocking of the individual pills based on the machine reading and the dispensing.

Claim 9 (previously presented):   A method of claim 8, further comprising verifying prior to dispensing that the individual pill is scheduled to be taken by the particular patient by checking with scheduling information stored in a computer.

Claim 10 (previously presented):   A method of claim 9, further comprising billing a cost for the individual pill based on the machine reading and the verifying.

Claim 11 (previously presented):   A method of claim 8, wherein the pills are individually within single-pill containers prior to the dispensing.

Claim 12 (previously presented):   A drug identification system for marking solid form drugs comprising a pill imprint having a first marking in the form of a human recognizable symbol and a second marking in the form of a machine readable bar code, wherein the human recognizable symbol provides a general identification suitable for categorical identification and communication, and the machine readable bar code provides an item identification.

Claim 13 (canceled):

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Claim 14 (original):   The drug identification system of claim 12 wherein the bar code is a 2D bar code.

Claim 15 (previously presented):   A method of determining information concerning a pill, comprising dispensing pills from inventory individually, identifying a source and a distributor of each of the dispensed pills by accessing a database and scanning a machine readable code assigned to each of the pills individually.

Claim 16 (previously presented):   A method of claim 15, wherein the pills are individually within single-pill containers.

Claim 17 (previously presented):   A method of scanning, comprising scanning a machine readable code while a pill is within a container, decoding information pertaining to the pill from the scanned machine readable code , and evaluating the decoded information and accessing a database to determine whether taking the pill poses any potential health risk and, if so, providing a warning.

Claim 18 (previously presented):   A method of claim 17, wherein the scanning is through a transparent material through which the machine readable code is readable.

Claim 19 (previously presented):   A method of claim 17, further comprising recording a time of day in response to the scanning.

Claim 20 (previously presented):   A method of claim 19, further comprising determining efficacy of the pill based in part on the recorded time of day.

Claim 21 (previously presented):   A method of claim 17, wherein the machine readable code is on the sealed container.

Claim 22 (previously presented):   A method of claim 18, further comprising effecting record keeping by reading the machine readable code on the sealed container.

Claim 23 (currently amended):   A method of record keeping, comprising scanning a machine readable code on a container of at least one pill and storing information pertaining to

what was scanned and a time of day of the scanning, and recording dietary information at times before, during and after the scanning and correlating same with the stored information.

Claim 24   (previously presented):   A method of claim 20, further comprising storing information pertaining to food and a time a day when the food is eaten as the dietary information and correlating with the stored information.

Claim 25   (previously presented): A method of claim 15, wherein the machine readable code is in a form other than human-readable alpha-numerical characters.

Claim 26   (previously presented): A method of claim 25, wherein the identifying arises from the scanning upon correlating with information stored in a data base.

Claim 27   (previously presented) A method of claim 17, wherein the machine readable code is in a form other than human-readable alpha-numeric characters.

Claim 28   (previously presented) A method of claim 27, wherein the evaluating is based on correlating the machine readable code with information stored in a data base.

Claim 29   (previously presented) A method of claim 8, wherein the pills are selected from a group consisting of tablets, caplets, gel-caps, pellets, gum-pieces, capsules, edible items that are biocompatible that contain any consumable herb, chemical, mineral, vitamin, plant or animal product, drug or placebo.

Claim 30   (previously presented) A method of claim 15, wherein the pills are selected from a group consisting of tablets, caplets, gel-caps, pellets, gum-pieces, capsules, edible items that are biocompatible that contain any consumable herb, chemical, mineral, vitamin, plant or animal product, drug or placebo.

Claim 31   (previously presented) A method of claim 17, wherein the pill is selected from a group consisting of a tablet, a caplet, a gel-cap, a pellet, a gum-piece, a capsule, an edible item that is biocompatible that contains any consumable herb, chemical, mineral, vitamin, plant or animal product, drug or placebo.

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Claim 32   (previously presented) A method of claim 23, wherein the pill is selected from a group consisting of a tablet, a caplet, a gel-cap, a pellet, a gum-piece, a capsule, an edible item that is biocompatible that contains any consumable herb, chemical, mineral, vitamin, plant or animal product, drug or placebo.

Claim 33   (previously presented): An apparatus to verify that medication to be administered is correct, comprising:

scanning equipment suited to effect a scanning a bar code on an identification bracelet worn by a patient to ascertain patient information and to effect a scanning a bar code pertaining to medication to be administered to the patient to ascertain medication information;

verification equipment suited to effect verifying as to whether the patient information and the medication information is correct and authorized based on both of the scannings by accessing a network; and

an alarm arranged to be activated as a consequence of the verifying indicating that the medication is improper for administration to the patient.

Claim 34 (previously presented):   A system of determining information concerning a pill, comprising dispensing equipment configured to dispense pills from inventory individually, and identification equipment configured and arranged to identify a source and a distributor of each of the pills dispensed by the dispensing equipment by accessing a database and scanning a machine readable code assigned to each of the pills individually.

Claim 35 (previously presented):   A system of claim 34, wherein the pills are individually within single-pill containers.

Claim 36 (previously presented):   A system of administering medication, comprising:

equipment configured to keep track of each individual one of a plurality of pills by machine reading a machine readable code assigned to each of the individual pills;

dispensing equipment configured to effect dispensing of an individual one of the pills based on the machine reading; and

equipment configured to adjust inventory requirements for stocking of the individual pills based on the machine reading and the dispensing.

Claim 37 (currently amended) A system suited to scan, comprising scanning equipment suited to scan a machine readable code while a pill is within a container, decoding equipment configured and arranged to decode information pertaining to the pill from the scanned machine readable code, and equipment configured and arranged to evaluate the decoded information [-] and to access a database to determine whether taking the pill poses any potential health risk and, if so, provide a warning.